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## BOOK NOTICES

**Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics.** Vol. VII, "Hymns-Liberty." Edited by James Hastings. New York: Scribner, 1915. Pp. xx+911. \$7.00.

The seventh volume of this remarkable work abundantly maintains the standard of its predecessors. It covers some exceedingly important subjects, including "Immortality" and "Jesus Christ." It is good to see that the article on the latter by President McKenzie of Hartford Theological Seminary is on such broad and comprehensive lines as to make a very complete presentation of theological and other problems associated with Jesus Christ. It is not only a general summary of doctrines but an independent though brief discussion of certain tendencies in today's New Testament scholarship.

It is hardly necessary to mention each one of the articles which come in this very important volume. It is enough to say that as this work develops the successive articles continue to show a breadth of learning and constructive scientific method. Dr. Hastings never errs on the side of radicalism. The theological articles as a general thing are written by very temperate progressives. This is desirable if the book is to be anything more than a series of individual opinions. Dr. Hastings has very properly conceived of a reference book as in a sense representative of an at least partial consensus rather than as an opportunity for recording pioneering speculations of the Jerachmeel sort.

**Jerusalem to Rome.** The Acts of the Apostles. A New Translation and Commentary with introduction, maps, reconstructions, and illustrations from Christian art. By Charles Fremont Sitterly. New York: Abingdon Press, 1915. Pp. 293. \$1.50.

The outstanding characteristics of this volume are: (1) an analysis of the Acts into twenty-eight main sections, with a number of subdivisions for each section; (2) a new English rendering based upon the Greek text of Souter; (3) a running commentary printed on the page opposite to the English text; and (4) numerous illustrations.

The detailed analysis of Acts makes it easy for the reader to become familiar with the content of the book. The new translation does not differ radically from that of the Revised Version, but it is sufficiently new to catch the attention at many points where the more usual rendering, because of its familiarity, might not awaken the reader's interest. The accompanying commentary is quite untechnical in character and is mainly devoted to homiletical interests.

Problems of textual and historical criticism are consistently eschewed. The author's point of view is essentially that of the conservative school, as represented for example by Bernhard Weiss who is especially mentioned in the Dedication. Harnack is followed in dating the composition of Acts before the year 70 A.D.

The numerous illustrations, which add greatly to the attractiveness of the volume, are taken from the masterpieces of Christian art depicting scenes and persons connected with the history of early Christianity. There are also modern photographs and reconstructions of several ancient sites.

**Biblical Nature Studies.** By Andrew W. Archibald. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1915. Pp. xi+220. \$1.00.

This is a collection of thirteen papers, of different length and widely varying interest and value, upon various themes from nature, for example, "Treasuries [sic] of the Snow," "Fishing Experiences," "Eagles and Storks." They are more or less related to the Bible, but make no serious scientific attempt at biblical interpretation, nor does their frequent reference to the Bible render their interpretation of nature either clarifying or beautiful. A characteristic chapter is entitled "The White Mountains." It contains an indirect reference to the 147th Psalm and another to Deuteronomy in the opening paragraphs, then gives three pages of passable guide-book narrative regarding the Franconia region, then retells "The Great Stone Face" in no interesting way for three and a half pages, and finally takes us up Mount Washington and through Crawford Notch, where we are left with a bit of Bible to sanctify the scene in the Willey house after the fatal slide. Just how this can be called a "Biblical Nature Study" we cannot discover. Dr. Archibald has changed a few sermons and diaries of travel into pleasant but not profitable reflections which serve no scientific purpose at all and give little reward to the casual reader.

**The Gospel according to St. Mark.** (Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.) Edited by A. Plummer. New York: Putnam, 1915. Pp. xlvi+211. \$0.50.

This volume is not as large nor pretentious as the commentaries by Dr. Plummer on St. Matthew and St. Luke, but it will quite as well repay careful study. While intended for use by those not familiar with the Greek, it still reflects on every page the ripe scholarship of the Dean of commentators. He is a master in the art of